

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
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Teresio SIGNAROLDI et al.) Group Art Unit: Unassigned
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Application No.: Unassigned) Examiner: Unassigned
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Filed: January 18, 2002)
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For: IMPROVEMENTS IN AN)
RELATING TO UNDERWATER)
PIPE-LAYING)
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-captioned application, please enter the following amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10, 12-19, 21, 23, and 24 as follows:

1. (Amended) A pipe-laying vessel comprising an upwardly extending tower assembly defining a path down which the pipe passes as a pipeline is being laid by the vessel, and a lower guide arrangement for guiding the pipeline after it has passed down the tower, the lower guide arrangement including a plurality of sets of guide rollers spaced apart along the path of the pipeline and defining the lateral limits of the path, the guide